

EASTHAM HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10 NOVEMBER 2021

FINAL MINUTES

MEETING #2

ATTENDEES: Kate Berg (Chair); Felice Coral; Beverly Hobbs, Hilda Merolli, Dilys Smith

ABSENT: Stella Edmondson

A Zoom connection was established. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

Draft minutes from the last meeting of 3 November, 2021 were reviewed and accepted.

Kate reported that she had been unable to set up a meeting with Jacquie Beebe, but will plan a meeting after Thanksgiving.

Representatives from the Cape Cod Children's Place and Nauset Together We Can were scheduled to present current activities and plans today.

Kate has also contacted Gwynne Guzzeau from Helping Our Women again; however, she has not yet responded to several inquiries.

Kate will speak with Linda Sassi to arrange for shredding of old applications; committee members should contact Kate if they have old applications for disposal.

Kate provided background describing the origins of CCCP, and that it is fortunate that the organization is located here in Eastham. Other sources of funding for CCCP include funds from other towns, family and business charitable foundations, grants, and state funding. Additional grants also support CCCP. Tuition income also supports supplies and programs, but is based on a family's ability to pay. Dilys noted that CCCP provides programs for parents (both Moms and Dads) and grandparents/other caregivers. The pandemic forced a reduction in hours and programs, but the schedule is now returning to previous levels.

Presentation: Patty Watson-Cape Cod Children's Place

Since COVID, things are 'all change, all the time', but focusing on personal safety, children's safety, and essential support services. Patty started her job only 2 weeks prior to the lockdown.

There are 3 layers of impact:

1. Early education-classroom services
2. Support services for children and families for the entire Lower Cape
3. Advocacy, community engagement services to support the family unit across a broad range of challenges. Cindy is now recognized throughout the State for these efforts.

Support services now include the following:

- Department of Public Health collaboration with a focus on reduction of substance abuse and support for recovery
- Department of Early Education collaboration
- Children's Trust supports SAFE pilot program funded by the Stop Abuse for Every Child Grant that supports collaborations with community partners.

Programs now have an increased focus on fathers, male caregivers, and include supervised STEM organized programs, e.g., Lego program on Saturday mornings. 'Caregivers' is now the emphasis to accommodate and recognize the changing roles of mothers, fathers, grandparents, and relatives in a family unit who are raising and supporting children.

New activities include: Multicultural and diversity training and awareness to increase equity and acceptance; multilingual programs (support groups); Sensational Kids (created by pediatric occupational therapists) to enhance resilience in children, to educate providers to create a calming environment rather than triggering issues for both children and adults, and to teach resilience skills. Included in all programs are individual family consultations, school presentations and activities. Pediatric occupational therapists will observe teachers/class, makes suggestions based on behavior of child, environment, and assessments of 'what happened' to a given child (e.g. triggers, distractions).

The transition from CCCP includes the following activities: kindergarten readiness, link families to support services in school districts (Monomoy and Nauset) through-partnerships with schools. Overall, these efforts assist schools to provide a supportive, stable learning and social environment despite family challenges.

Kyle Wibby – Nauset Together We Can

Restarted program recently (October 2021), has 2 new staff members, including Kristin Knowles, former Board member.

COVID restrictions remain in effect. There are some consistent students, and some students who drop in. A Payroll Protection Plan loan was obtained to continue paying staff and insurance during the COVID-mandated closure.

The Board is considering alternative methods of recruitment, developing consistent program structure, and publicizing a calendar of events to draw in more students.

Other plans include restarting Paint Nights, and evaluating other potential activities. The Board has great energy and enthusiasm, and will pursue advertising thru Facebook groups, public media, an updated website, and other sources of information to re-acquaint students and families about the program.. Because of ongoing changes in Orleans (e.g., fire station development, building restrictions, etc., it is difficult to establish concrete plans.

While Orleans is currently addressing developing, housing, and other issues, Nauset Together We Can is becoming more aware and involved in Town board meetings and discussions to establish and maintain visibility of this important resource for middle school students.

Kristin Knowles is excited to pursue new opportunities for group. Jean Pettingill, a long-term supporter, continues to be involved.

Goals include maintenance of space/expanded programs that are multigenerational, and sharing of space, town, and regional resources to ensure safety, socialization, structure for friends, and availability of mentors. Other possible locations are being explored, should the current space become unavailable in the future.

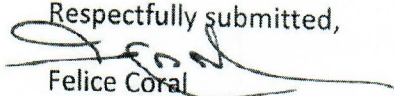
Cape Cod Chronicle reporter Brian Bray contributed a recent article that increased visibility of the program to the general public. In addition, Kyle has joined recreational committee and has participated in the community feasibility task force, discussions pertaining to the Cape Cod Sea Camp property in Brewster, T Time property in Eastham, and discussions with the YMCA that may consider expansion of services to the Lower Cape. All programs would have the goal to support increasing the independence of middle school students in a safe and supportive fashion.

Kate confirmed that Melanie Braverman of the Alzheimers Support Group and representatives of Mass Appeal will offer presentations at the next meeting, on November 17.

The next meeting will convene at 7PM on 11/17/21, via ZOOM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Felice Coral